

**the
australian
society for
parasitology
inc.**

ABN 65 979 686 445

NEWSLETTER

<http://www.parasite.org.au/>



Australian Society for Parasitology, Conference and Annual
General Meeting, Fremantle September 26-30, 2004
Details inside.

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australian society for parasitology inc.

NEWSLETTER page 1

From the President's Desk

The new Executive has settled in and is working well. Wendy Cooper (Executive Secretary) and I have been having meetings every 2-3 weeks to keep on top of issues and that the Treasurer (Shane Middleton) resides in Melbourne is not proving to be too much of an inconvenience. The mid term council meeting took place in Canberra in February with a good turn out. We rattled through a long agenda and the upshot of the meeting was that the ASP is in good shape and active in several new areas.

Recruitment of new ASP members has been really active recently, with over new 40 enrolments. Keep up the good work! The major initiative the ASP has been involved in recently has been preparation of a funding proposal to the ARC for the formation of a Parasitology Network. Much has been going on in this area that has not been communicated to the membership, particularly in respect of the financial commitment agreed to be the previous and present Councils. In an attempt to rectify this undesirable situation, and inform the membership, I have written a separate piece on the ARC Network for Parasitology that appears elsewhere in this Newsletter. A funding application has been submitted to the ARC seeking \$500,000 per year for five years to establish a parasitology network. We owe Nick Smith a great vote of thanks because it is he who has done all the writing and chasing people to contribute on time. If we are successful with the funding, I think the establishment of this network will really put Australian parasitology on the map, nationally and internationally, whilst at the same time providing some excellent new opportunities for researchers, particularly the younger ones.

The ASP is still committed to maintaining and establishing links with individuals and parasitological societies in the region. A few weeks ago the Malaysian Society held their annual meeting in Kuala Lumpur, I attended together with three students (see my report on the Malaysian meeting elsewhere in the Newsletter). The meeting was excellent and very well organized. The out going Malaysian Society President, Dr Indra Vythilingam and her Committee should be congratulated on their efforts to ensure the success of the meeting. This close relationship that is developing between the Malaysian Society and the ASP is very gratifying and it is giving our students a wonderful opportunity to attend an international meeting and present their work. The new President of the Malaysian Society is Dr Nooraine Abdullah and she is keen for this collaboration to continue. However, we have to ensure the traffic is not all one way and Malaysian students have the opportunity to attend our meetings. Although the ASP already has links with parasitological societies of our South East Asian neighbours, I would like to see more communication between us and more attendance at our respective parasitology meetings.

This is not the time to retire behind the barricades, it is a time to reach out and communicate.

Dave Jenkins
President



Newsletter Editor

Welcome to the first edition of the ASP Newsletter for 2004, particularly to the 40 or so new members of the society. The ASP “old-hands” will notice one major change to the newsletter this time around. The list of names and contact details of the ASP council has grown somewhat and I was faced with the choice of either reducing the print size or spilling the list onto the following page. Those of you, who me, are challenged by smaller fonts will be pleased I took the latter course. In order to make the changes, I have had to demote the list from its customary position on page two to the rear of the book.

The “Freo 04” committee are putting together what promises to be a great conference. Preliminary conference information and a registration form can be found in the centre pages of this issue, but we draw your attention to the ASP website (www.parasite.org.au) for all conference details and late-breaking news. Remember to register before 30 July 2004!

Thanks to Ian Barger for keeping the “Parasite Culture” column afloat for this edition with his contribution of a work by Alec Derwent Hope, a noted Australian poet of the 20th century. I recall this poem was used by Gerald Schmidt in his excellent book with its seductive title “How to Know the Tapeworms” (CRC Press, Boca Raton, 1970). The Parasite Culture column is devoted to the mention of parasites or

parasitology events in literature or arts. We welcome any contributions to this column, and remind you all to keep on sending in your local news items to your state representatives.

Please remember to advise the ASP secretariat of address changes if you move. A form is printed on the last page of each newsletter. Many newsletters were returned after the last mailout. We have tracked down a few people, but we have no record for others (see names below). If you know the current address of these folk, could you advise me, so we can make contact to update membership details. The parasitologists missing in action are:

Peter Ey
Joan Lloyd
Ben Diggles
Rebecca Traub
Eridani Mulder
R. J. Dalglish
Rebecca O'Donnell
Renfu Shao

A warm note of thanks to Tracey Laing of QIMR, for her cheerful assistance in putting the newsletter together. Tracey looks after the mailouts, an arduous task in which she has to envelop and frank close to 400 newsletters.

Malcolm Jones
Newsletter Editor



ARC Network for Parasitology

As many of the ASP membership may be aware, following Alan Johnson's enthusiastic presentation at the Darwin meeting and several other venues around Australia, the ARC has set up a new network funding initiative. The potential funding level is substantial, up to \$500,000 annually for 5 years. The purpose of the Network is to foster closer national and international interactions between researchers and facilitate better exchange of ideas and technologies. The previous ASP Council thought this was an excellent opportunity to promote and advance Australian parasitology nationally and internationally and opted to bid for one of these network grants. The previous ASP Council set in train the application process that has been enthusiastically supported and advanced by the current ASP Council. This process has proceeded to the point where an application for funding of an ARC Network for Parasitology has been lodged.

However, I am acutely aware that much has gone on at Council level in respect of commitments from the ASP that have not been discussed by the membership at an AGM. The purpose of this article is to:

- (1) outline developments to date;
- (2) briefly outline the commitment of the ASP and other participants included in the application; and
- (3) briefly outline the anticipated benefits of the ARC Network to the ASP.

(1) The application process had two stages. First, we applied for and successfully obtained \$30,000 seed funding to finance preparing the formal application. The malaria researchers applied separately and received \$20,000 seed funding. It was decided to combine the malaria and ASP bids since, as a combined application, we felt we stood a much better chance of the application being successful. As part of the preparation process a Network Convener was appointed, two

workshops were held to determine the content and direction of the application and a website constructed. Nick Smith was the nominated Convener, Russ Hobbs constructed the web site and the first workshops (held in December, 2003) comprised Nick Smith, Nick Sangster, David Jenkins, Alex Loukas, Una Ryan, Andrew Thompson, Rob Adlard, Tom Cribb, Carol Behm, John Dalton, Michael Wallach, Simon Reid, Mark Sandeman, Merle Olson (University of Calgary, Canada) as an international adviser, Leann Tilley and Geoff McFadden, with a follow-up meeting (held in February, 2004) involving Nick Smith, Nick Sangster, David Jenkins, Una Ryan, Andrew Thompson, Leann Tilley and Ross Coppel. Nick Smith wrote the application and once it was in final form the application was handed over to a professional science writer to polish it up. The website has gone through a considerable metamorphosis and will be subject to further future changes. The application is available from Nick Smith (nick.smith@uts.edu.au) and the web site address is <http://www.parasite.org.au/arcnet> for those of you who wish to look at them. In addition, lists of people suitable for a Management and an Advisory Board were compiled (and these are included on the website). The funding application was submitted on March 22, 2004 and we now await the outcome of the ARC selection process. We should hear if we have been successful by the middle of the year.

(2) The Council has agreed the ASP will donate \$50,000, annually, to the Network. In total, \$161,000 per year has been committed from participating organisations, including the \$50,000 per year from the ASP, to the running of the Network. This is in addition to the almost \$500,000 per year requested from the ARC and would give the Network considerable scope to implement a



series of initiatives (as outlined on the website).

(3) The anticipated benefits to the ASP.

The overall benefit of the Network to Australian parasitology research, in general, will be enormous, but some specific direct benefits to the ASP include:

The Network will provide budget and resources to carry out, on an ongoing basis, many of the goals and aspirations of the ASP's Benchmarking Initiative.

The network will provide a salary for an Administrator, who will undertake similar roles and functions previously proposed for the ASP Executive Officer on a fulltime basis.

The Network will help finance and organise the ASP Annual Scientific Meeting.

The Network will provide resources for increased publicity for parasitology.

The Network will provide resources and funding for grant writing workshops and grant writing retreats with professional sci-

ence writers, particularly for young researchers, to enhance the quality of parasitological research funding applications.

The Network will employ information technology professionals to build and maintain databases (such as, an Australian parasite data base; a database and bioinformatic tools for parasite genome analysis; tools to store, mine and analyze microarray and proteomic data, and associated software; a catalogue of available research tools eg monoclonal antibodies, serum banks, cell lines, parasites, DNA libraries and plasmids etc).

The Network will enhance the profile of parasitology with the ARC and help make parasitology research a national priority.

Involvement of medical parasitology researchers, especially the malaria researchers, in the Network will increase the ASP membership base.

David Jenkins



Adult *Rhodnius prolixus* taking a blood meal through human skin. Source: TDR
Credit line: WHO/TDR/STAMMERS



Report of ASP Council

Minutes of the ASP Mid-term Council Meeting

Venue: Hydatid Research Laboratories, Canberra

Date: 27 February 2004, 9:00 am

Present: David Jenkins (DJ), Wendy Cooper (WC), Shane Middleton (SM), Carol Behm (CBe), Chris Bryant (CBr), Charles Gauci (CG), Rob Gurney (RG), Russ Hobbs (RH), Mal Jones (MJ), Simon Reid (SR), Nick Sangster (NSa), Shelley Walton (SW), Ian Whittington (IW) Michelle Wooster (MW), Nick Smith (NSm) attended for part of the meeting to report on the ARC Network.

Apologies: Tom Cribb (TC), Peter O'Donoghue (POD), Ian Sutherland (IS).

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Two minor corrections to the minutes of the End-term council meeting of 6 July 2003 were suggested and the minutes were accepted.

Business Arising from Minutes

History of Parasitology in Australia – see separate Agenda item.

Media – DJ reported on discussions with “Media Monitors”. A quote for monitoring parasitology-related media was discussed. It was decided that the service could be trialled and its value to the society evaluated. DJ to report to next Council meeting.

Bancroft-Mackerras Medal (B-MM)- see separate item below. A letter was sent to Alan Johnson to thank him for service to the ASP as a member of the BMM committee.

It was resolved that records of the membership of the Committee were to be updated and passed on to next Executive.

It was noted that lists of new members had not been distributed to State Representatives. WC will distribute a new list.

The conference organisers' folder has not been located. When found, WC will pass this on to organisers of ASP 2004.

It was also noted that the lists of duties of

executive committee have been made in the past, but the present location of these lists are unknown. Location of list for Treasurer was with previous Treasurer. It was agreed that DJ and WC would make up duty lists for their positions. Copy of most updated lists are to be kept by Archivist (CBe) and each Executive is responsible for forwarding the duty list to incoming Executive and any updates sent to Archivist.

Education in Parasitology- POD has asked that this matter be deferred until next Council meeting (Fremantle) when he will present brochures.

FASTS – see President's Report.

Parasitology Benchmark – Team of coordinators is TC, DJ, Andy Thompson, NSa (advisory). Rob Adlard has been added to the team of coordinators. An article was to be written for the ASP newsletter.

ARC Network – NSm to report to Council – see separate Agenda item.

JD Smyth Travel Award and Postgraduate Travel Award. It was noted that a proposal to alter wording concerning the JD Smyth Awards would be drafted and advertised in the newsletter.

Election of Fellows – Resolution of this is to be carried over to the End-term council meeting.

MAM2004. Two student travel awards were made (see agenda item under Awards);

Business Arising from 2003 AGM

IJP – NSa reported that a list of new Specialist Editors has been circulated. A letter to Terry Rothwell was to be written thanking him for his contribution as IJP Deputy Editor. Also, it was agreed that the ASP should write to Maria Meuleman thanking her for her hard work.

Malaysian Society for Parasitology – Council had formally responded to Suresh's address and Andy Thompson was to write to Suresh to obtain more detailed information.



Reports

President's Report

ARC Network – It was noted that the application for seed funding was successful (\$30 000 to parasitology and \$20 000 to malaria). The two bids have been amalgamated). Three meetings have been held to date by a committee consisting of NSm, DJ, TC, NSa, Andy Thompson, Rob Adlard, Leann Tilley, Geoff McFadden. A website has been set up by Russ Hobbs and is soon to be linked to the ASP website. Science writers have been engaged to edit and finalise the application.

Bancroft-Mackerras Medal – DJ outlined several issues that had arisen from correspondence between the BMM Committee and Executives of the ASP. Some problems had arisen largely because of communication problems related to the hand-over of Council Executives. It was resolved that DJ should communicate with members of the BMM committee to correct any confusion engendered by recent decisions of council, to update them on the progress of their helpful suggestions, and to thank them for suggestions and service to the BMM and ASP.

FASTS – The new president of FASTS is Snow Barlow; new Executive Director is Bradley Smith; request for details of “success stories” for promoting; debrief after Issues Paper indicated that this was a very successful initiative; major new initiatives are Benchmarking and ARC Network. A call for success stories in parasitology is to be placed in newsletter.

It was noted that the “Intimate Aliens” exhibition has been cancelled, with possible resurrection in future. DJ has written to Queensland Museum expressing disappointment and requesting refund of \$10 000 donation. CBr noted that Questacon may be interested in collaborating with Queensland Museum to continue with the exhibition. CBr offered to approach Grahame Durant (Director Questacon) to gauge level of interest and possibly arrange a meeting with Grahame Durant, CBr, DJ and WC. Council resolved that DJ be authorised to follow lines of inquiry with the aim of reactivating “Intimate Aliens”.

Science Meets Parliament was held on 14,15 October 2003 and was attended by DJ. On the day, 260 scientists met with 152 parliamentarians. DJ recommended attendance to Council, and urged that younger members be encouraged to attend.

Parasitology Benchmark – should dovetail with ARC Network. No specific progress to report.

Communication between Executives and hand-over procedures. DJ outlined problems that had arisen during the hand-over of Executive and general communication issues between Executives. Council resolved that the President Elect, incumbent President and Vice-President should co-ordinate flow of information to new Executives, Councils to ensure continuity of Council/ASP initiatives, awards etc. Council noted that the names and contact details of current BMM Convenor and Incorporation Secretary should be added to the address pages of the newsletter, currently on page 2.

Council resolved that all documentation pertaining to the Executive to be passed to the new Executive within 6 weeks of the AGM. Outgoing President ensures that this occurs.

Treasurer's Report

No formal Treasurer's Report was presented.

ARC seed funding has been reimbursed.

WC raised the matter of an uncashed cheque found in Society records. If student cannot be easily traced, the cheque to be destroyed.

It was resolved that SM was to circulate budget for out-of-session approval.

Secretariat/Incorporation Secretary's Report

No formal report received.

It was noted that 20 new members had been accepted into the Society. WC has sent welcome letters to all new members including information about the ASP, contact details for their State Representative (as applicable), Secretariat and the ASP website.

A total of 40 letters were sent out in September/October 2003 to members more than 2 years in arrears with membership fees. As a result one resignation was received. It is not



known how many of the lapsed members sent letters renewed their membership. Those that did not respond were removed from the membership list by the Secretariat. It was agreed that WC was to ask POD for more copies of the Constitution for new members and to ensure new copies have pages correctly oriented.

POD requested clarification of the position of Incorporation Secretary and in particular if this was a voting position on Council. The Council agreed that the position had a vote on Council. WC to write to POD about voting rights of Incorporation Secretary.

International Journal for Parasitology Editor's Report

Statistics for IJP – 506 regular papers were submitted this year, and it was noted that there has been an increasing quality of papers received. Web based submission is being introduced by Elsevier in 2005.

Deputy Editor – John Ellis has replaced Terry Rothwell. Letter to John Ellis from Council to be sent to John thanking him for accepting the invitation to assist NSa.

New Specialist Editors – NSa circulated a list to Council.

NSa had visited Elsevier to investigate the facilities and personnel in production of IJP. Discussed budget and functioning of IJP office. The concept of an on-line access to IJP ('Society Service') for ASP members was discussed. It was resolved that the ASP should move to establish 'Society Service' (electronic access to IJP) with Elsevier and membership join/renewal form to allow members to participate. Fellows would receive 'Society Service' at no cost. (It was resolved that NSa continue negotiations with Elsevier on provision of 'Society Service' to members. It was agreed that POD was to discuss logistics with RGSQ. Introduction of Society Service may require more frequent revision and updating of membership list.

Newsletter Editor's Report

MJ presented report on ASP Newsletter. Two issues had been published since the

last Council meeting. It was noted that because the 2003 conference was held earlier in the year than usual, an extra issue of the newsletter would be published before the next end-term council meeting. MJ requested \$1000 to produce a 4th newsletter for the term of this Council (a 14 month term).

Archivist's Report

Verbal report

CBe has some material to be archived soon and is investigating methods for preservation of film material. RH provided website material for archiving. WC to pass material older than three years in ASP files to CBe for archiving. It was agreed that the Newsletter Editor should appeal to membership for material that should be archived (especially photographs).

Webmaster's Report

RH presented a written report. There have not been significant changes to the website recently. Conference registration pages to be uploaded shortly. Link to ARC Network site to be added soon. Darwin papers (pdfs) were to be added soon. RH indicated that he was willing to step down as webmaster when suitable replacement was found. The matter was to be discussed further at next Council meeting. It was resolved that MJ was to seek volunteers to replace current Webmaster in the newsletter.

Conference Reports

2004 Fremantle

Preparations for ASP 2004 were progressing well. Brown Besier has organised \$20-30 000 in sponsorship. Registration fee expected to be below \$400.

Three invited speakers have been nominated for Invited Lectureship Travel Grants.

2005 ASP/NZSP/WAAVP New Zealand

16-20 October 2005

NSa provided update on the joint 2005 conference. Advertisements will continue to appear in the newsletter.



2006 Queensland (Parasitology Benchmark) Conference

No information was provided to Council.

Awards

Bancroft-Mackerras Medal

Current Committee is convened by Carol Behm

Fellowships

A nomination was considered by Council.

Invited Lectureship Travel Grant

Nominations received for James McKerrow, David Marcogliese and Joseph Ndung'u. All three nominees are speakers at the Fremantle meeting. Council agreed that costing for the speakers should be provided and a final decision on the grants to be made by the Executive out-of-session. The executive will write to nominators after decision is made.

JD Smyth Travel Award (formerly Overseas Postgraduate Travel Awards)

Two successful applicants – Craig Kyngdon and Sarah Frankland (La Trobe). Each applicant to be awarded \$2000. A report from Stuart Barber and Nathan Bott (previous recipients of the Awards) has been published in the Newsletter.

An application from undergraduate student was discussed. It was agreed that the applicant did not meet all the selection criteria. DJ was asked to write to the student to explain the decision of council

Student travel to Fremantle

It was resolved that council would allocate up to \$25 000 for student travel to Fremantle. The usual formula of half economy airfare, registration and student accommodation will be applied.

Special student travel awards to MAM 2004

MAM 2004 was held 1-5 February at Lorne.

Two applications were received in response

to the advertisement in the Newsletter. Eligibility criteria for the award were discussed. It was resolved that the two students who applied for the Special Travel Grants to attend MAM 2004 be funded for half economy airfare, registration and student accommodation, provided they attended the Conference and presented papers/posters. Receipts and tickets or boarding passes will be required to prove attendance and indicate costs. WC was to contact conference organiser to check that the students attended and presented papers or posters. Also, WC was to write to students advising them of success and requesting tickets and receipts.

Student travel to Malaysian Society for Parasitology

To be held in Kuala Lumpur 23-25 March 2004.

The three speakers judged best student presenters at the Darwin conference were offered the opportunity to attend the Malaysian Society for Parasitology conference and all accepted. Student attendees are Nathan Bott (UQ), Andrew Read (Uni Melb) and Patrick Sakwa (UNE). As previously agreed, ASP will pay for the airfares and registration fees, the MSP will pay for accommodation and food for the students.

Correspondence

Request for financial support for tick collection. Council agreed that there was a need to reserve parasitological resources and provided in principle support for the proposal. Further details are required.

It was resolved that DJ write to Ian Beveridge to express Council's in principle support for this idea and invite Ian to prepare a specific proposal, along with request for funding.

International Biology Olympiad – A request for \$5000 sponsorship to support the IBO was received. Council discussion centred on benefits to ASP from sponsorship of this type of event. It was resolved that DJ should seek further information regarding



this event. Further, Council empowered DJ to donate up to \$2000 to the IBO at his discretion.

Other Business

History of Parasitology in Australia – Will contain 22 chapters, 19 of which are in hand. Editing is underway, seeking publisher. Book designer and indexer to be engaged. Final manuscript to be presented to Council. Publication is expected next year. It was resolved that the Executive should write to editors (Ian Beveridge and POD) to thank and encourage them.

Malaysian Society for Parasitology – there has been little activity towards launching the proposed African aid as outlined by Suresh (MSP) at the Darwin meeting. No ASP members have expressed strong desire

to be actively involved. Some members have suggested that ASP should consider a similar program in some of the disadvantaged Australian Aboriginal communities.

It was resolved that DJ should discuss idea further with Suresh at MSP meeting.

Endorsement letter for member attending overseas meeting – A member had requested a letter of support from the ASP regarding his attendance at an overseas meeting. No financial assistance is expected. It was agreed that DJ should fax and post letter to member who had requested letter.

Status of Secretary (incorporation) – discussed earlier under Secretariat/Incorporation Secretary report.

Meeting closed at 3.20pm.

ASP Webmaster

The ASP is calling for expressions of interest for the position of ASP webmaster. The role of webmaster is to maintain and update the ASP web pages (www.parasite.org.au) to keep the society informed of happenings and developments in the society.

This is a voluntary but rewarding position. For further information on the role and the ASP website, please contact our current Webmaster:

Russ HOBBS

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Murdoch University, WA 6150

Tel: (08) 93602499 Fax: (08) 93104144

Email: hobbs@murdoch.edu.au





A call to all ASP photographers

The ASP Council is keen to maintain the historical record of the society. If you have any photos of ASP colleagues, past or present, please send copies to our Archivist Carol Behm. Her contact details are on page 47 of this newsletter.



Your hardworking ASP council in Canberra, February 2004



Malaysian Society for Parasitology Meeting 2004

The First ASEAN Congress of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine and the 40th Annual Scientific Seminar of the Malaysian Society for Parasitology and Tropical Medicine (MSPTM) took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia between 23 and 25 March 2004. Following an impressive opening ceremony, the scientific program began with the Sandosham Memorial Lecture "Malaria: the mortality play" was delivered by Prof Robert S Desowitz (USA), an honorary Fellow of the MSPTM.

David Jenkins represented the ASP at the meeting and at the annual dinner congratulated the Malaysians on holding an excellent event and thanked them for maintaining such solid links with the ASP. David also emphasized the importance such international collaboration in these troubled times. Accompanying David to the meeting were three Australian students Andrew Read (University of Melbourne), Nathan Bott (University of Queensland) and Patrick Sakwa (University of New England) (see their report on

page 32 of this newsletter). The students were there to participate in the annual student paper competition. There were also three Malaysian students in the paper competition and this year the cup was won by Tan TC of Malaysia (an Australian won it last year), with Andrew Read coming second. The quality of the presentations was excellent and the judges, Dwight Bowman (Cornell University, USA), Peter Waller (National Veterinary Institute, Sweden) and Yamasaki H (Asahikawa Medical College, Japan) had a difficult job deciding on the winner.

This was an excellent meeting with a wide range of topics addressed, including a highlight, the last paper of the meeting, entitled "Were the SARS and other emerging viruses aliens from outer space being seeded on to Planet Earth?". It is good to know someone is monitoring this contentious area!

David Jenkins



Left to Right: Patrick Sakwa (UNE), Andrew Read (MU, second place), Tan TC (winner) and Nathan Bott (UQ) at the Malaysia meeting





Students!

Are you planning to attend an ASP Conference in the near future? You may qualify for travel support from the ASP. Please be aware that you need to have been a member of the ASP for at least **6 months** before the conference to qualify for support. Further information can be obtained from the ASP Executive Secretary.

Want to become a Student member of the ASP? Please fill out the form near the end of this newsletter or make a copy of the application form in the latest issue of the *International Journal for Parasitology*.

Prizes for Best Student Posters and



Closing Dates for Nominations for ASP Awards

Bancroft-Mackerras Award - December 31st 2004 (for award in 2004).

Invited Lectureships Travel Grants - December 31st 2004.

JFA Sprent Award – next award 2005; announcements in ASP Newsletter in mid-late 2004 .

Student International Travel Awards - December 31st 2004.



SA STATE NEWS

Following last year's successful informal meeting in July of SA members of the ASP and the Australian Society for Microbiology (ASM), Dr Andrew Butcher of IMVS-Queen Elizabeth Hospital who is State Rep. for the ASM and Ian Whittington (State Rep., ASP) are organising a similar joint soiree for late July 2004 in the Royal Society Rooms. We hope to attract some talks from microbiology and parasitology students as well as established researchers in both of these disciplines.

Di Barton continues to seek employment in Adelaide while awaiting the verdict on an ABRs grant application to work on pentastomes of Australian herpetofauna. She has submitted 10 job applications, had several interviews and while not securing a position yet, she impressed one interview panel to secure some tutoring in a technical communication subject for 1st year Science students. Di will also be coaching rugby for payment, so she's in her version of sporting heaven currently! Good luck with the ABRs application, Di. Imagine her combining parasites, herps and rugby!! To keep her parasitology interests ticking over, Di has been revising a draft of the North Queensland chapter for the History of Parasitology.

Australian Water Quality Centre

Kylie Harvey, a CRC summer scholarship student of Paul Monis, won an award for best presentation at the CRC for Water Quality and Treatment's Summer Research Scholar Reporting Seminar 2003/04. Her project topic was "What's eating crypto?" which involved isolating microorganisms from environmental water samples and assessing their ability to ingest *Cryptosporidium* oocysts. Kylie is continuing her work into an Honours project. Also, Carolyn Read visited to do some training on using the RotorGene 3000 real-time PCR machine.

SA Museum/University of Adelaide

It was a very busy start to 2004 for the Marine Parasitology Group at The University of Adelaide. Ian Whittington (SA Museum and University of Adelaide [UA]) and Leslie Chisholm's (UA) writing of two ARC Discovery Grant ap-

plications coincided with visits from two esteemed, retired, monogenean colleagues. Dr Graham Kearn (University of East Anglia, UK) worked with Ian for a month describing some '*Entobdella*' species that have been awaiting names for many years. Graham was also given the unenviable task of reading drafts of ARC grant proposals and a plethora of 100-word summaries. A few days after Graham departed, Leslie's previous boss, Dr Mary Beverley-Burton (University of Guelph, Canada) arrived for a weeklong stay in Adelaide. While grant writing unfortunately precluded longer collecting trips with these parasitologists, we managed to fit in a few short visits to McLaren Vale for some crucial sampling of liquids other than seawater.

Late in 2003, Ian Beveridge (Uni of Melbourne) made another of his regular pilgrimages to the SA Museum to deposit another 10,000 bottles of nematodes from macropods and slides of tapeworms from elasmobranchs. Another visitor to Adelaide, but mostly for social, non-parasitological purposes, was Professor Lesley Warner from Rockhampton who dropped off a variety of loaned material and made several hefty deposits of vials and slides too in February this year.

Dust is gathering on the desks of the Yellowtail and Kingfish Parasite Management Group (University of Adelaide) because most members are in the field. While Ingo Ernst is away in Japan during March, Clinton Chambers and Allan Mooney are off gallivanting about the Spencer Gulf in the new university boat, which is yet to be named. Meanwhile, Kate Hutson is soon to unveil her secret weapon ... traps, which will be deployed this week. Watch out kingfish! Rissa Williams will be resuming her quest for an oral treatment for monogeneans infecting kingfish, with the long-awaited arrival of her fish next week.

Vanessa Glennon won an APA from the University of Adelaide and has been accepted as a PhD student (supervised by Ian and Leslie) in the School of Earth & Environmental Sciences. She joins the Marine Parasitology Group at the end of March and will be studying the ecology of parasites from the southern fiddler ray and



other closely related rhinobatids. The Marine Parasitology Group is growing in other ways: PhD student David Schmarr's wife recently gave birth to a big baby boy (Zayd) and Clinton Chambers, and his partner Jane, are looking forward to the arrival of their first child in June.

SARDI

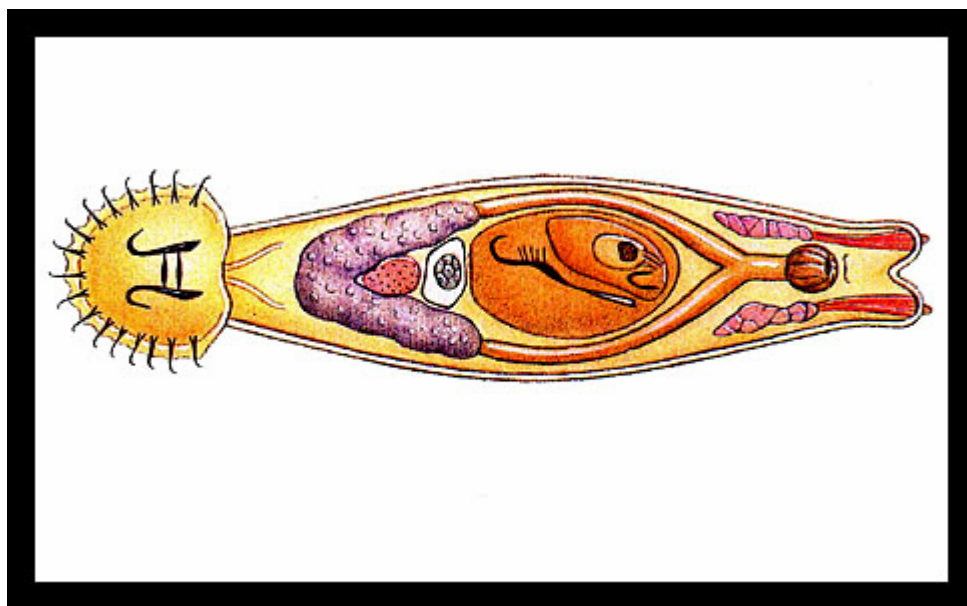
Two prominent members of the society visited SARDI in December. Peter O'Donoghue came to Adelaide to spend some time with his mum and dropped in to the lab to catch up with some old colleagues. He took a couple of us to lunch at the local pub and we reminisced about the old days. Ian Beveridge also paid us a visit to collect some teaching specimens and converse with old workmates. He also connected with a couple of classmates from the Veterinary school. We were pleased that he spent considerable time with us, but on reflection, we think he probably only stayed in the air-conditioned lab to avoid the 40°C heat.

Ian Carmichael has been voluntarily attending Arabic language courses with other members of the organisation to accommodate a corporate initiative to assist with the re-building of Iraq. Ian has recently obtained funding to continue and expand work on the effect of nematodes on prime lamb production in south-eastern Australia. Richard Martin has followed up on his faecal egg count training by visiting the farmer group for a first hand examination of methodology and was very pleased with the approach and results. He has also been collecting dung beetles on the farms on which a nematode

monitoring program is being conducted. He intends to become familiar with their morphology and identify the species he is competing with for the sheep and cattle dung on each of the farms. SA and SARDI have lost an ASP member with Peter James taking up a position with the Queensland DPI in Brisbane. Peter returned for a fleeting visit and haircut in mid-February. Actually, Peter mentioned that he is not sure whether he is currently a financial member. Consequently, SA may have just lost a *soul* rather than a member! We also had a surprise phone call from Doug Gray. Doug and his wife now reside on Kangaroo Island, but we expect to see Doug on the mainland for a beer some time.

Recently, Micko of SARDI received very favourable reports from assessors on his PhD thesis about the cestodes of emus. Other than dotting a few i's, crossing a few t's and a few other little phraseology issues (the normal stuff that referees come up with), both assessors were highly complimentary and encouraged Micko to publish more of his data. Congratulations to Micko who hopefully, by the next issue of this Newsletter, may well have been doctored!

Compiled by Ian Whittington



VIC STATE NEWS

University of Melbourne Veterinary Science, Werribee

The Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Melbourne is embarking upon the process of application for accreditation of its Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree by the American Veterinary Medical Association. Hence, the Faculty hosted a Consultative Site Visit by AVMA representatives (March, 2004) which will be followed by an evaluation report. This coincided with the Open Day for prospective students and the public, which was held at the Werribee site of the Faculty. Needless to say, the Faculty was a buzzing hive of activity just prior to the event, with Parasitology being coerced into action by their stressed administrative colleagues.

Marshall, Rick and Charles have been involved with a field trial of the *Taenia saginata* vaccine (involving three hundred cattle) at the Melbourne Water sewerage farm. Marshall and Charles, together with our illustrious ASP President, Dave Jenkins have also been involved in inspecting sheep livers and lungs from sheep farms bordering the Alpine National Park near Mansfield, Victoria. Despite the efforts of dog trapping and installation of electric fences between the farms and the park (with no recorded losses of sheep due to dog attacks over the last few years), hydatid disease transmission is still occurring in this area! After being judged as the third best student oral presentation at last years ASP meeting in Darwin, Andrew Read was offered the opportunity to attend the Malaysian Society for Parasitology conference in Kuala Lumpur in March (sponsored by the ASP and the Malaysian Society for Parasitology). Andrew spoke about Identification of Mimotopes for the EG95 Hydatid Vaccine and was awarded second prize (trophy) in the student oral presentation section. Congratulations Andrew! A travel report will soon follow.

Robin Gasser avoided the suffocating paint fumes (resulting from last minute preparations

from Open Day/AVMA accreditation) by visiting Professor Anja Joachim at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna in January-February. Upon his return, Robin had lots of photos of *Oesophagostomum dentatum* rectally transplanted in parasite naïve recipient pigs... not the prettiest pictures you would want to see first thing Monday morning!

Recently joining the parasitology group is Reza Fadavi Firouz. Originally from Tehran University (Iran), Reza has completed a Masters in Veterinary Science at Melbourne University, and has now commenced a PhD program working on *Eimeria*, co-supervised by Robin Gasser and Kevin Whithear. Jasmin Hufschmid has commenced a MSc with Ian Beveridge, investigating "rump-wear" in bobuck possums, possibly caused by mites. In February, Brad Scandrett, from the Centre for Animal Parasitology, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Saskatoon visited Ian to establish collaboration on parasitological matters of mutual interest.

La Trobe Malaria Labs

Members of the School were involved in the organization of two very successful meetings held in February. Leann Tilley and Mick Foley were on the organizing committee of the Molecular Aspects of Malaria Conference held in Lorne Feb, 1-5, 2004 (370 participants, ~half from overseas). Leann Tilley was on the organizing committee and was Convener of the Program Committee for the Annual Lorne Conference on Protein Structure and Function, held in Lorne Feb, 8-12, 2004 (400 participants, including 23 invited overseas speakers). Most members of the malaria group attended and enjoyed both conferences. We were visited by John Adams (Notre Dame, USA), Chris Janssen (Glasgow) and Laura Martin (MVDU-NIH, USA) who all gave talks. In addition, Kathy Parisi, Karen Harris, Jesse Schloegel and Ross Weston all travelled to Port Douglas and were active participants in a malaria sym-





Troy: Victorian Air Guitar Champion (by Default)

The team from Marshall Lightowlers lab recently went on a lab excursion to the Victorian Air Guitar Championships. Pictured with the two winners, are the air guitar groupies, Sonja "Steppenwolf" Gauci, Pauline "Korn" Cottee (above) , Craig "KISS" Kyngdon, Sonja and Mark "Megadeth" Pellegrino (below).



posium with Prof Tim Haystead's lab from Duke University USA. The malaria labs at La Trobe also welcome a new influx of students. Kirsty Foster has started honours with Mick Foley and Andy Coley; Derrick Cant, Sam Deed and Liz Gooddall have also commenced honours in Leann Tilley's Lab as has Melanie Ladiges with Robin Anders. The new Ph.D. students are Kath Jackson, supervised by Leann Tilley and Solie Abdunour, supervised by Robin Anders. All the above are ferreting away successfully in their respective labs and we all look forward to hearing the results of their labours in the coming months.

University of Melbourne Centre for Animal Biotechnology

Much has been happening in and around CAB over the summer months: most obviously construction of Bio21 next door. It has been exciting to see the building take shape and to hear about labs and companies who will be our neighbours by July this year, all things going to plan. The new complex will also house a conservatory-café and we look forward to sipping latte without having to risk life and limb crossing Flemington Road! But on matters less gastronomique Stuart Barber submitted his thesis on the efficacy and delivery of macrocyclic lactones in cattle just after Christmas – congratulations Stu! Our other students are doing well too: Jill Pleasance has just impressed us with her PhD confirmation seminar on the immune responses of Indonesian Thin tail sheep to infection with *Fasciola gigantica*. Her PhD has already had challenges above and beyond that of most other projects and she has handled them well. And after the set-backs he's come to expect from working with a large animal model, Nicholas Kennedy has just begun his second vaccine trial in sheep to investigate the efficacy of DNA vaccines against fasciolosis. We also welcome new students Caroline Skene and Nick Robinson, who will be working with Phil Sutton,

and Els Meeusen and Ken Snibson, respectively. Look out for their news in the next edition!

Meanwhile, higher up the foodchain, Adam Balic (Edinburgh-based with Rick Maizels) graced us with his presence for a brief 4 week stint at the beginning of the year thanks to an OECD Fellowship. Adam's primary aim - apart from thawing out from the Northern winter - was to initiate a collaboration between CAB and Edinburgh University on specific aspects of DCs in sheep. David Piedrafita continues his travels to Indonesia, but as his ACIAR project on immunological and genetic resistance to *Fasciola* infection by Indonesian Thin Tail sheep comes to a conclusion at the end of this year, he is looking forward to beginning new experiments investigating *Haemonchus* immunology sponsored by the AWI. The newly-arrived Paul Sheean is finding out just how dirty biochemistry can be as he helps David with poo collection for the early stages of this project. But internal parasites are not the sole focus at CAB and the bane of every school-kid – head-lice - are the subject of studies by Vern Bowles. His company, Hatchtech Pty Ltd, established with the support of the Melbourne Venture program at the University of Melbourne, is well on the way to developing new drugs against these common pests.

We leave you with a small gift that Jill and David brought back for Els on their last trip to Indonesia. We think it could form the beginning of a new ASP newsletter segment: "Parasitology in the real world". Needless to say, the package remains unopened!

Compiled by Charles Gauci



GREEN TEA

Is prepared from the chosen centuries old quality tea plants which also contains tea plant parasites.

Directions for use :

Pour one cup of hot / boiling water on one (1) teaspoonful of green tea.
Ready to drink after about 5 to 10 minutes.
It is better to drink after meal.

Dep.Kes. R.I. MD. No. 841211020035 G.D.P. No. 300655

Green Tea
useful for health
and beauty



Cation Reads: Is prepared from the chosen centuries old quality tea plants which also contain tea plant parasites.

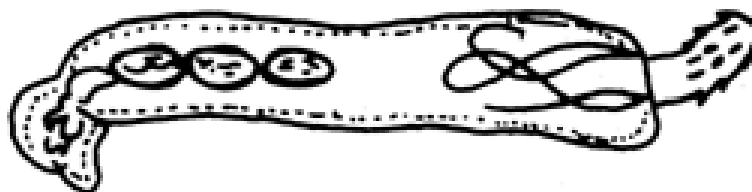
Northern Territory News

The Menzies School of Health Research

The scabies laboratory has been successful in winning a second NHMRC project grant, beginning this year, to look at scabies mite group 1 allergens. This grant in collaboration with Dave Kemp at QIMR and Robyn O'Hehir and Jennifer Rolland at Monash aims to examine the role of scabies mite cysteine proteases in immunity to scabies. Sue Pizzutto will shortly be heading down to Melbourne for training in cellular immunology with Robyn's group. Dr Deb Holt, who has been a visiting scientist at MSHR from QIMR, will soon officially become a mem-

ber of the Menzies mob to join work on molecular mechanisms of resistance in scabies mites. Barbara Matysiak is currently visiting the lab for 5 months from Reutlingen University in Germany and after initially coming to terms with how small and hot Darwin is, has easily managed to settle into the Australian way of life (demonstrated by eating a chiko roll with obvious enjoyment!). Jo Bex has also joined the lab and is welcomed with open arms for her skills in PBMC separations. Her record 20 in one day!

Compiled by Shelley Walton



WA STATE NEWS

Department of Agriculture Western Australia - Brown Besier

Another busy year has started – why isn't there any slow-down for the so-called festive season any more ? – with a raft of new activities on the go. Brown Besier's shuttling between Albany and Armidale for Sheep CRC meetings has borne some fruit, with new field research projects on nutritional strategies for sheep nematode control, and the use of nematophagous fungi to reduce worm larval development. Both are in collaboration with Malcolm Knox (CSIRO, Armidale), and will be managed locally by a new parasitological recruit, Greg Hood. Greg finished a PhD a few years ago and has worked for CSIRO and latterly ILRI in The Philippines, before returning to WA and the cooler climes of Albany.

Also busy with field work is Rob Woodgate, who is running the WA sites of an AWI-funded project demonstrating integrated parasite management strategies on sheep farms. Rob is also the WA contact for the new sheep worm control decision support and information program, "WormMaster", a Sheep CRC funded website project headed by Arthur le Feuvre of Queensland Dept Primary Industry. At the South Perth laboratories, Dieter Palmer is working on CRC projects investigating better nematode diagnostic tests - in any free time he has after his appointment as the head of the Animal Health Laboratories' immunology section.

A collaborative exercise between the WA Ag Department and Murdoch University has produced interesting results. A survey of parasites in sheep conducted by Brown Besier, Una Ryan and Caroline Bath,

through an abattoir near Albany revealed far higher worm burdens than expected, and a variety of *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium* isolates. Many messages to farmers and scientists will result, once we work out what it means!

And another new (?) face: though not to the Department: Rob Dobson, formerly of CSIRO's Prospect laboratory, has migrated West. We hope his expertise in modeling and epidemiology will now be focused on western worms!

Murdoch University, Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences - Andy Thompson, Russ Hobbs

Brenda Ralston has commenced her PhD on *Cryptosporidium* in beef cattle under the supervision of Andy Thompson and Dave Pethick. Brenda will combine research activities in Alberta, Canada with those in WA to compare the epidemiology and impact on production of *Cryptosporidium*, particularly *C. andersoni*, in feedlot situations. Brenda spent January and February at Murdoch planning her studies and will return for two months later in the year. Carly Palmer has also commenced her PhD program under the supervision of Ian Robertson, Andy Thompson and Rebecca Traub, on a Bayer-sponsored project that will examine the nationwide prevalence and distribution of GI parasites of dogs and cats, and evaluate the knowledge and awareness of pet owners and veterinarians about the public health significance of parasites in pets.

After a year as a research assistant, Bong has won an international postgraduate scholarship and will embark on a drug-discovery project with Andy Thompson, Wayne Best and Simon Reid focussing on



schistosomes. Annika Boxell has also left her research assistant days to embark full-time on an ARC-funded PhD with Nawal Hijjawi, Andy Thompson and Una Ryan, in which she will utilise a variety of techniques including micromanipulation to further characterise novel life cycle stages that have been identified in *Cryptosporidium*. Annika will work closely with Peter Cox and colleagues at Sydney Water who are the Industry partners on this Linkage project.

Ryan O'Handley has accepted a position with the group as a Research Fellow on an Environmental Biotechnology CRC-funded project on pathogen detection. As such Ryan will continue to work on his much loved *Giardia* in a collaborative project with Andy Thompson and Belinda Ferrari at Macquarie, as well as a project looking at the application of biosensors for pathogen detection with Simon Reid. We are all delighted that Ryan and Diane will be returning to Australia, with Morris their new son, for the long term, and look forward to their arrival in June.

Rebecca Traub has returned from a sojourn at Cornell to take up an APDI Fellowship on an ARC/Bayer-funded project that will investigate parasite zoonoses of dogs and cats in Thailand, with emphasis on food-borne infections. Rebecca, Andy Thompson, Ian Robertson and Peter Irwin will visit Thailand for a week after Easter to discuss the project plan with local collaborators Mathirut Mungthin from Department of Parasitology, Phramongkutklao College of Medicine in Bangkok, and Yaowalark Sukthana from Faculty of Tropical Medicine at Mahidol University of Bangkok, as well as Darwin Murrell who is a collaborator on the project.

Andy Thompson, Una Ryan, Nawal Hijjawi, Carolyn Read and Annika Boxell visited the Sydney Water Corporation in February for an annual meeting. Nawal, Annika and Carolyn presented recent developments

and achievements of the project to managers there. The meeting was followed by a tour of the Sydney water labs to show the recent developed methods of detection of *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium* in water samples.

Congratulations to Peter Adams and Rebecca Traub who have both recently been awarded their PhDs.

Andy is busy on the organising committee of two international conferences – EMOP 9 in Valencia in July, and the combined *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium* conference in Amsterdam in September.

Louise Pallant has temporarily suspended activities in the lab to produce brother Dominic for her rapidly growing daughter.

François Pecher, in his 6th year of a Doctor of Pharmacy at the Louis Pasteur Institute, has been at Murdoch University since November 2003 to work on drug discovery against *Eimeria* and *Cryptosporidium*, as part of his degree. He has decided to stay with the group for the rest of 2004 and will champion the group's ambition to improve upon current *in vitro* cultivation procedures for *Eimeria*.

Andy will return to Calgary in mid May to complete his sabbatical. He will be away for 6 weeks during which time he will finalise the results of research on *Echinococcus* and *Cryptosporidium* that they both initiated during Andy's visit last year.

Finally, Brown Besier, Simon Reid, Russ Hobbs, Marion Macnish and Una Ryan are busily putting together a great program for the ASP conference in Fremantle.

Compiled by Russ Hobbs





The Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australian Society for Parasitology Inc.

26th to 30th September 2004
Esplanade Hotel Fremantle, Western Australia

www.parasite.org.au/freo04

The organising committee takes pleasure in inviting members of the Australian Society for Parasitology to the next Annual Scientific Meeting to be held in Fremantle, Western Australia. Visit our website for all the details and updates (<http://www.parasite.org.au/freo04>). The deadline for early-bird registration, abstract submission and student assistance applications is **30 July 2004**.

Fremantle is a vibrant and historic city within the Perth metropolitan area, which has become a favourite destination for domestic and international tourists. The atmosphere of the conference will reflect the city's openness. Fremantle has long been known as Perth's other capital. Within easy walking distance, visitors can experience fine crafts, original music and theatre, exciting galleries, museums, bookshops and buskers. The city offers a unique blend of a lively multicultural yet relaxed lifestyle and is a 7 day city.

The southwestern corner of Western Australia is famous for its wildflower display in spring. Plan to spend a few extra days in the area, and travel to one of the spectacular national parks such as Stirling Ranges or Kalbarri. Or travel to the wineries of the Margaret River or Great Southern regions. There is plenty to see around the Perth metropolitan area too, and Rottnest Island is just a half-hour ferry ride away. See the website for more tours (<http://www.parasite.org.au/freo04>).

Student members are eligible for Travel Grants to cover the cost of registration and accommodation, and up to half the economy airfare. Students are all encouraged to present their findings, and will compete for cash prizes for the best student oral or poster presentation.

As usual, the conference will kick off with a Welcome Reception. This will be held at the conference venue, the historic Esplanade Hotel. There will also be a Sundowner at Little Creatures Brewery Bar, which is just a few minutes walking distance from the conference venue. The highlight of the social program is the Annual ASP Dinner, which will be at the new Maritime Museum in the Port of Fremantle. A walk through the museum prior to the dinner will be included in the price.



The conference organisers thank the
following sponsors:

Fort Dodge

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Australian Wool Innovation

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The Australian Society for Parasitology Inc.

ABN 65 979 686 445

**Annual Scientific Meeting, Fremantle Esplanade Hotel
26-30 September 2004 (www.parasite.org.au/freo04)**



Registration Form

DELEGATE INFORMATION

Delegate Name:

Title	First name	Family name
Preferred name for badge:		
Institution/Company:		
Postal address:		
State:		Postcode:
Tel (work):		Fax (work):
Email:		
Special needs (dietary or other):		

Are you a student? * ☐ Yes ☐ No
Are you presenting a paper or poster? ** ☐ Yes ☐ No

ACCOMPANYING PARTNER:

Partner Name:

Title	First name	Family name
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TRAVEL

Please indicate your preferred day / time of travel and Motive Travel will contact you direct with a quotation on the most economical fare available.

To Perth: From (city) Date: Arrival time hrs

From Perth: To (city) Date: Depart time hrs

Fare type: No. adults: No. children:

Names of children

D.O.B / /

D.O.B / /

D.O.B / /

REGISTRATION FEES (A)

Prior 30 Jul 2004 After 30 Jul 2004

ASP Member	\$375	\$425	\$
Other Society Member	\$375	\$425	\$
Student Member	\$200		\$
Non-member	\$500	\$500	\$
Day Registration	\$125	\$125 Day:	\$
Accompanying Partner	\$50	\$50	\$

Total Section (A) AUD \$

SOCIAL PROGRAM (B)

Please write number attending in boxes

<input type="checkbox"/>	Welcome Reception (Included)	\$	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Conference Dinner - Delegate \$65	\$	
	Partner \$75	\$	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sundowner (Included)	\$	0

Total Section (B) AUD \$

ACCOMMODATION

<input type="checkbox"/>	Single	<input type="checkbox"/>	Twin	<input type="checkbox"/>	Double	<input type="checkbox"/>	Triple
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 Bedroom Appt	<input type="checkbox"/>	2 Bedroom Appt				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Esplanade Hotel	<input type="checkbox"/>	Harbour Village Quest Apartments				
Check in date / / 04 Time hrs Check out date / / 04							

Sharing with

Special request

Please supply your credit card details, including expiry date, only to secure your room. No actual payment is required.
See Conference website for prices (<http://www.parasite.org.au/freo04>) and for alternative backpacker and bed-and-breakfast accommodation which you must book yourself.

PAYMENT SUMMARY

Registration Fees **TOTAL SECTION (A) \$**

Social Program **TOTAL SECTION (B) \$**

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED (AUD) \$

☐ My cheque / Money Order is enclosed (payable to Australian Society for Parasitology Inc.) **OR**

☐ Please debit the amount indicated above to my Credit Card
Credit Card payments can be made only with the cards listed

<input type="checkbox"/>	BANKCARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	MASTERCARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	VISA
Cardholder (please print)					
Card No.					

Signature				Expiry ____ / ____	

Please fax or email this form to:

ASP 2004 Meeting Secretariat: Motive Conventions

Fax +61 8 9322 1417

Email: motive@vianet.net.au

ALL COSTS ARE INCLUSIVE OF 10% GST where applicable

* Student registration must be accompanied by a signed Student Form

** All presenters must submit a completed Abstract Form

PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR REFERENCE AND TAXATION PURPOSES



For all Freo 2004
Conference news,
log on to:

WWW.PARASITE.ORG.AU/FREO04





The Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australian Society for Parasitology Inc.

**26th to 30th September 2004
Esplanade Hotel Fremantle, Western Australia**

www.parasite.org.au/freo04

Six symposia and workshops are being organised for the scientific program.

New approaches to helminth control - Brown Besier, Department of Agriculture WA and Sheep CRC

Speakers: Frank Jackson (Moredun Research Institute, Edinburgh)
Malcolm Knox (CSIRO Livestock Industries McMaster laboratory, Armidale NSW)
Third speaker TBA
(General topics: the need and role for new nematode control approaches; progress with new technologies and their realistic potential; results from Europe and the local region; integration of new technologies into control programs.)

Chemotherapeutic helminth control – from lab to paddock - Brown Besier

Speakers: Roger Prichard (Institute of Parasitology, McGill University, Montreal)
Nick Sangster, University of Sydney
Andrew Kotze, CSIRO Livestock Industries, Brisbane
(General topics: mechanisms of resistance – cellular, molecular, genetic; drug targets and new anthelmintic discovery; current situation and prospects for chemotherapeutic control.)

The future of teaching in parasitology - Peter O'Donoghue, University of Queensland

Speakers: Peter O'Donoghue Introduction and Medical Parasitology
Robin Gasser (University of Melbourne) Veterinary Parasitology
Tom Cribb (University of Queensland) Marine Parasitology
Malcolm Jones (QIMR and University of Queensland) Invertebrate Biology

Vectors and Vector-borne diseases - Andy Thompson, Murdoch University

Speakers: Joseph Ndung'u (Kenyan Trypanosomiasis Research Institute)
Peter Irwin (Murdoch University)
Third speaker TBA

Moving home: evolutionary, morphological and molecular aspects of parasite life cycles - Malcolm Jones, Queensland Institute of Medical Research

Speakers: James McKerrow (University of California, San Francisco)
Tom Cribb (University of Queensland)
Alex Loukas (QIMR)

Parasites and ecosystem health - Alan Lymbery, Murdoch University

Speakers: David Marcogliese (Environment Canada, Quebec) Parasites of the superorganism: are they indicators of ecosystem health?
Dave Spratt (CSIRO, Canberra) Australian ecosystems, wayward food webs and parasitic probabilities for people
Pierre Horwitz (Edith Cowan University, Perth) Parasites, ecosystems and sustainability

As usual, in addition to the symposium program, there will be a huge variety of contributed papers on all sorts of parasitological topics.



AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY NEWS

David Jenkins and other members of the ASP have been actively involved in the preparation of the proposal for the ARC Network for Parasitology (see ARC Network for Parasitology, elsewhere in the Newsletter). Chris Bryant has agreed to serve on the Board of the Network and will bring to it the experience of the Centre for the Public Awareness of Science at ANU.

In January David, Chris Bryant and Ulrike Mathesius (not an ASP member, or even a parasitologist!) ran two seminars as part of the National Youth Science Forum at the University of Canberra. The seminars took the form of extensive discussion a discussion, with lots of audience participation, on where biological science research is going and where it should be going. All sorts of thorny issues were raised; one of the most contentious was "Ethics in Science".

David has attended two meetings since the last newsletter, the First International Seminar for Transfer of Technical Information

on Immunodiagnosis of Cysticercosis and Echinococcosis in Asikawa, Japan, and the First ASEAN Congress of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine and the 40th Annual Scientific Seminar of the Malaysian Society for Parasitology and Tropical Medicine in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Three students accompanied David to the Malaysian meeting and an excellent time was had by all (see Malaysian Society for Parasitology Meeting, elsewhere in the Newsletter).

Hydatid research in Australian wildlife has had a "shot in the arm" with the recent arrival of Tamsin Barnes to the Department of Zoology at UQ. Tamsin, a very recent recruit to the ASP and hopefully an attendee in Fremantle, is starting a study on the impact of hydatidosis on wallabies, particularly colonies of reintroduced endangered species. One of her supervisors will be Don McManus and David Jenkins will also be lurking around lending a hand as required.

Compiled by Chris Bryant

NSW STATE NEWS

Parasitology group at the University of New England's Zoology Department.

Emeritus Professor Klaus Rohde has been very busy writing books, manuscripts and book chapters this year. He is in the final stages of producing an edited book on marine parasites with about 65 contributors to be published by CSIRO Publishing in 2004. Siobhan Rothsey is beavering away on her PhD studies down at the coast, collecting copepods and monogeneans for her research on their host finding behaviour. Mahri Koch recently submitted her PhD thesis on digenean trematodes of New England gastropods. She is teaching

first year biology students and looking for employment in her field. Libby Moodie submitted her thesis on microsporidian parasites of yabbies in October last year, is teaching the Parasitology course at UNE. Bruce Chick's group at Veterinary Health Research have been extremely generous with time spent with students and provision of specimens for the parasitology course. Libby is fast learning the art of writing grant applications to do further research on microsporidian life-cycles, host-parasite coevolution, and environmental influences on immune defences to parasites in crustaceans.



NSW Agriculture - Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute (from Garry Levot)
EMAI's Parasitology group together with CSIRO Livestock Industries and with support from Australian Wool Innovation Pty. Ltd. is working to develop a test to detect sub-clinical infestations of lice on sheep. An ELISA test is up and running but transferring this technology into a rapid test that can be run by producers in the shearing shed is the goal of the next phase of research. If the project is successful producers will be able to use the results of the test when making the decision on whether to dip their sheep or not. Paul Young (EMAI) and Dr. Wojtek Michalski (CSIRO) developed the ELISA. It uses the waxy debris that accumulates on the comb and cutter of the shearer's handpiece as the sample for testing. In a trial conducted at EMAI using artificially infested sheep, samples collected from sheep infested with fewer than 50 lice each returned positive results in the ELISA. While the commercial partner works on developing a test for use in the shearing shed, our team of Irene Bate, Roger Carrus, Paul Young, Kim Dawson and Garry Levot is collecting comb and cutter debris samples during shearing, inspecting lots of sheep for lice on commercial farms and running the tests. Results will be used to validate (hopefully) both the ELISA and the new test when it is available.

Dr. Mozaddedul Haque is working with Garry Levot on the control of *Aethina tumida* (Small Hive Beetle), an exotic parasite of bee hives that was discovered in eastern Australia late in 2002. The use of chilling/freezing of stored comb to kill beetles/larvae or arrest beetle development is being investigated. Insecticide bioassays of beetle adults and larvae are being conducted to identify suitable candidates for potential use as soil treatments (to kill larvae) or in-hive treatments to kill adult beetles.

NSW Agriculture
(Submitted by Steve-Love, NSW State Worm Co-ordinator):
The WormMaster website/CD project
The aim of this project is to provide Australia

lian sheep producers and their advisers with a web/CD-based comprehensive information package, covering all aspects of sheep worm management.

It will feature a user-friendly interactive "decision aid tool" that will deliver a regional specific (shire, Rural Lands Protection Board etc) information packet that will provide producers with management options/issues leading to better management decisions. For the technically-minded, it will also include a 'reference library' of more detailed information based on the former Australian Wool Innovation-funded SCIPS project. (SCIPS stands for 'Sustainable Control of Internal Parasites of Sheep').

The project is managed by the Australian Sheep Industry Cooperative Research Centre and funded by AWI and the Sheep CRC. The aim is to have the product finalised mid-year with an official launch in August.

The project team is made up of a coordinator from each state (Arthur Le Feuvre, Qld; Stephen Love, NSW; Noel Campbell, Vic; Andrew Bailey, Tas; Ian Carmichael, SA; Rob Woodgate, WA). Other key players are Brown Besier (Agriculture WA/Sheep CRC), McKinnon project staff and a number of veterinary consultants.

There are also a growing number of interested contributors from various state departments, parasitology labs and rural merchandisers. We welcome all interested parties - if you are one, contact your state coordinator or the project leader.

The project has gained the support of all major drench resellers. This influential group has expressed a wish to be involved in promoting the product to their clients as well as being fully familiar with the operation and content of the product.

Need more information? Contact the project leader (Arthur Le Feuvre), or your state coordinator.

Project Team Leader:

Arthur Le Feuvre

DPI Qld (Warwick)

Ph 07 4661 6619, Mob 0427 641 298

Email: Arthur.LeFeuvre@dpi.qld.gov.au.



Robert Dobson (formerly CSIRO)

I have moved to WA and have recently been modelling Possum populations and *Parastrongyloides trichosuri* population in possums for AgResearch (NZ).

CSIRO Armidale (from Malcolm Knox):

Leo Le Jambre retired from full-time em-

ployment with CSIRO at the end of February to take up a post-retirement fellowship, expand his angling skills and increase his family and gardening commitments.

Belated welcome to Joanne Lello (ex UK) who has now been with us for 6 months to continue divisional efforts in parasite modelling and epidemiology.

Compiled by Michelle Wooster

QLD STATE NEWS

Department of Primary Industries

An update on goings-on at the Department of Primary Industries in Brisbane: the researchers at Animal Research Institute were transferred to the Biotechnology division of DPI's research program about a year and half ago. This has not affected their activities much as physically they have not moved to another location. The group includes Wayne Jorgensen (Team Leader), Glenn Anderson (now also 50% diagnostics), John Molloy, Ala Lew, Jan Maree Murphy, Catherine Minchin, and Anthea Bruyeres. There is also a name change for the DPI following the recent QLD State election to DPI&F (and Fisheries). The division has some new temporary staff; Sita Balshaw is working on the liver fluke project with John and Glenn; Lyle McMillen is working on the MLA bovine reproductive disease diagnostic project (including trichomoniasis) with Ala and Donna McKenzie is helping with the coccidiosis research work (Glenn, Wayne and John). Over at Wacol, Cristiano Joao Macuamale from Mozambique has started a Master's project with Louise Jackson. Currently he is learning how to grow *B. bovis* and *B. bigemina* using *in vitro* culture methods and he will be applying these techniques to further refine

the culture conditions. Welcome everyone.

John and Wayne are both still busy coordinating tick fever ACIAR projects with the Philippines and Zimbabwe (respectively). DPI&F are also working with Glen Coleman (UQ) and John Ellis (UTS) on some Neospora diagnostics - largely through student projects and have just kicked off an RIRDC project aimed at producing better diagnostic tests for poultry coccidia, working closely with Grant Richards from Eimeria Pty Ltd. Glenn is also working with David Waltisbuhl, Nic Jonsson (UQ) and David Kemp (CSIRO) on an MLA project surveying the distribution of acaricide resistance in the cattle tick. The group continues to work closely with staff at the Tick Fever Centre at Wacol (Louise Jackson, Bert de Vos, Russell Bock, Mitch Finger and Taryn Fletcher). Taryn was previously at ARI with John Molloy and has now taken a position with Louise Jackson. Ala and Louise have been toying with RNA interference to study gene expression in *Babesia bovis* *in vitro* with Rhonda Hall.

Central Queensland University

Central Queensland University have just welcomed a new post-grad student who will be working on an ecological investigation



of the effects of infections of various larval stages on the foraging behaviour of snails living on mud flats and in mangroves. Does Lee know what she is letting herself in for when she goes out in the field? Once more we are pleased to acknowledge the support of Lois Small and her lab for Eridani's continuing search for rats and pythons on the Adelaide River flood plains. This year the wet season has been wet and Eridani has had to compete with the crocodiles for ideal sites for catching her hosts. Haylee has survived her first tropical summer and has discovered that a good wet season makes her rats harder to encourage into her traps. Lesley Warner is looking forward to 6 months study leave from July and getting down to some bench work again, being presently frustrated by the increasing amount of administration generated by the Higher Education system.

QIMR

Magda Ellis has recently arrived in Don McManus' lab from the United Kingdom to undertake a PhD on the immunogenetics of schistosome infections in China. Meanwhile, Don leaves for China on 8th April for workshops in Yueyang (Hunan Province) and Shanghai. These relate to two research programs he is involved in funded by the NIH-USA and Wellcome Trust/NHMRC. He will also visit the Human Genome Center in Shanghai where the complete genome of *Schistosoma japonicum* is being sequenced and is near completion. Watch this space!!

The wormy labs at QIMR have 5 new honours students enrolled this year through the University of Queensland. All are adding youthful enthusiasm to the labs and are keeping their supervisors busy. Amber Glanfield, who studied for Honours with Malcolm Jones, Don and Paul Bartley has returned to undertake doctoral studies and will be investigating surface receptors of schistosomes with Malcolm and Don.

Don and his international colleagues have submitted a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the Bill Gates Grand Challenges in Global

Health (GCGH) for "Roadmap to Elimination of Asian Schistosomiasis Using a Transmission-Blocking Vaccine". This has been selected for solicitation of a full application as one of over 1,500 that were received from 75 countries. 445 full applications were solicited but it is unknown how many of these will be funded, as the budgets requested cover a wide range. The total funding available is \$US200 million but this may increase. Good luck with the application Don.

University of Queensland

Rob Adlard from the Queensland Museum and Malcolm Jones of QIMR have been offered cross-appointments in the Department of Microbiology and Parasitology to assist the incumbent parasitologists in their lecturing duties. Tom Cribb and Rob have recently completed teaching in Marine Parasitology, a subject that included a week-long field trip to Stradbroke Island in Brisbane's Moreton Bay. This subject was taught intensively over a four week period, and although exhausted after their ordeal, both are relieved that most of their teaching for the year is now over. Expect a flurry of research papers from both of these chaps in the second half of 2004.

CSIRO

In CSIRO, Jacinta Hodnett has recently commenced a PhD project with Andrew Kotze. Jacinta will be looking at the role of antioxidant enzyme systems in the establishment of infections by *Trichostrongylus colubriformis*. Welcome Jacinta.

Finally, Fergus Andrew Sutherland commenced life as a 4kg parasitology cadet with Ian and Juliet on the 2nd March, joining 2-year-old Ruairidh, who is already fascinated by all things slimy. Hope for the future....

Compiled by Ian Sutherland



ASP Students at the Malaysian Society for Parasitology and Tropical Medicine Meeting

In 2003 the Malaysian Society for Parasitology and Tropical Medicine began an initiative encouraging students involved in parasite research from around the world to meet and discuss their research projects. The aim was to raise awareness of the importance for Parasitology and Tropical Medicine amongst young graduates and also to encourage more graduate students to take up research in these fields. The initiative takes the form of a "competition" toward the end of the MSPTM Annual Scientific Seminar. Last year Michelle Power and Craig Kyngdon competed, with Michelle taking home the cup.

This year three students from Australia were invited to form part of the seminar. Nathan Bott, Andrew Read and Patrick Sakwa headed over to Kuala Lumpur in March this year. Our intrepid ASP president Dave Jenkins was also present at the meeting.

Nathan related an incident that happened out on the street when he first arrived. He was pulled aside by a gruff plain clothes police officer, one of the "Tourist Police". He forcefully asked Nathan to produce his passport, and checked him for drugs. Apparently the Malaysians have police who target tourists. Once he established Nathan's innocence he became very friendly and told Nathan to be careful. I am surprised the tourist police didn't pull Dave Jenkins over for cravat wearing in public. I'm sure it's illegal in some countries.

The scientific meeting was the combination of the 1st ASEAN Congress of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine as well as the 40th Annual Scientific Seminar of MSPTM. On the morning of the 23rd of March, and with a moderate amount of pomp and regal ceremony the meeting was opened by Crown Prince Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Raja Muda

Perak Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah Ibni Sultan Azlan Muhibuddin Shah (apparently this is his full name). The press and news cameras were present to record the opening ceremony and welcoming addresses.

"Tropical Disease and Vectors: Management and Control" was the theme of the 3 day meeting. Although there was a wide variety of topics addressed, diseases such as malaria, Dengue Fever and diarrhoea predominated. I mused that although he had never been to Malaysia, my grandfather had spent about 4 years in Malaya in the '40s. During that time he managed to pick up most of the diseases discussed. Thankfully things have improved. We learned of the research and measures that are being implemented in the region to further reduce the incidence of the disease.

There were many very interesting and informative addresses, seminars and papers. I have a love for the eclectic and so, the use of GPS and satellite imaging to determine mosquito breeding environments down to a 1 meter resolution in Thailand, entomological observations of a 5 day old human corpse, the trade in rat meat in Vietnam, the practice amongst village healers in Malaysia to squash a cockroach on the nose of a patient in order to draw out worms from the sinuses, and different recipes for eating snails along the Mekong Valley all appealed to me. But the seminar title which took the cake was "Were the SARS and other emerging viruses aliens from outer space being seeded into Planet Earth?....Lim JB"

The thing to do in KL is to eat. The Malaysian Society put on a great variety of cakes, noodles and biscuits for morning and afternoon tea, as well as providing lunch. The Annual Dinner was an eight course Chinese banquet, with entertainment provided by



Tourism Malaysia. There were dancers representing each of the provinces of Malaysia. Prof. Suresh Govind entertained the crowd with his vast repertoire of jokes and anecdotes.

The student presentations were on the last day. Although the aim is to have students from around the world, only Australia and Malaysia were represented. Six of us in total gave our presentations, before a panel of three international luminaries chose a winner. Among the luminaries was a vice-president of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP). Tan Tian Chye from the University of Malaya was chosen as the winner this year for his work on discovering the predominance of amoebic forms of *Blastocystis hominis* in diarrhoea isolates. Some of you may remember Tan from last year's ASP meeting in Darwin.

One aspect of Malaysian society I was surprised and impressed with was the way science was incorporated into the media. The main Malaysian broadsheet, The New

Straits Times, ran a third of a page article on the opening of the meeting, and the Saturday paper dedicated a whole page to the research of three of the former presidents of the MSPTM.

Each of us had a great time in KL. The city is ethnically diverse and it was great to interact with different eastern cultures. It helped too when the monorail ran free-of-charge mid-week (in honour of the ruling BN party winning office), so conference delegates could get to see more of the city. Above all though, it is a really worthwhile exercise to forge closer links to other parasitological societies.

Each of us would like to sincerely thank the Australian Society for Parasitology, and the Malaysian Society for Parasitology and Tropical Medicine. The financial support and generosity of the society is to be commended.

Andrew Read (on behalf of Nathan Bott, Patrick Sakwa)



Nathan Bott (UQ) samples some Malaysian cuisine



ASP Announcements

Nominations for Bancroft-Mackerras Medal

The Bancroft-Mackerras Medal may be awarded to a member of the Society who, in the opinion of the selection committee, has made an outstanding contribution to the science of parasitology, particularly in work published during the last five years.

Nominations should be made by a proposer and seconder, and should consist of:

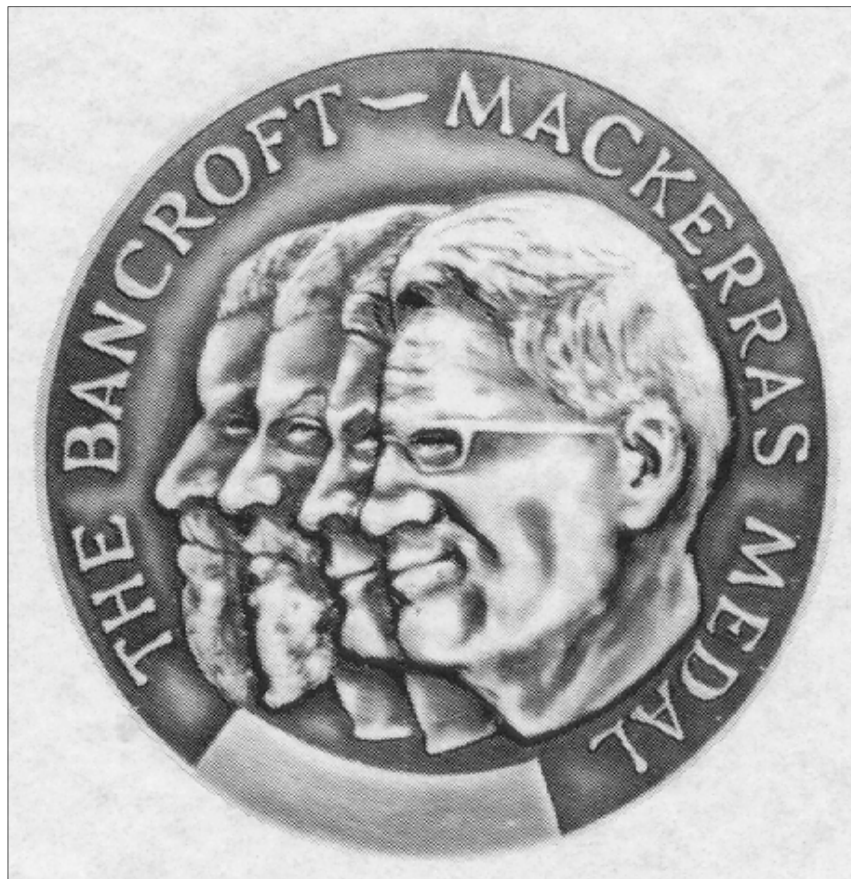
- A detailed statement of nomination describing the nature of the "outstanding contribution to the science of parasitology" for which he/she has been responsible. The statement should be

signed by the proposer and seconder, or each may submit a separate statement.

- A *curriculum vitae* including a list of all publications.

Note that the Medal is intended for members whose research program has been productive during the last five years. The permission of the nominee is not required and the nominee need not be aware of the nomination.

Nominations should be sent direct to the current ASP President. Detailed information on nomination and selection procedures is given in the By-Laws of the ASP Constitution. Nominations are due each year at the end of October.



Nominations for ASP Invited Lectureship Travel Grants

To complement the scientific presentations at the Scientific Meetings of the ASP, overseas researchers of international reputation in a field of parasitology may be invited to attend and present their work. The invited speaker's expertise must be common to a discipline or symposium conducted at the Scientific Meeting. The visitor must be nominated by a member of the Society.

The Society will provide a travel grant to assist in the finance of the trip. The support will be based on an economy class direct return airfare from the recipient's home city to Australia, the necessary interstate travel and reasonable living expenses based on actual costs. Registration at the Scientific Meeting will also be included.

The total value of the lectureship will be determined by Council but it is expected that the recipient, or his/her Australian sponsor, will also seek to provide additional or alternative financial support.

Applicants must include the following information:

Details of visiting specialist

An up-to-date *curriculum vitae* must be attached to the application. The following details should be supplied:

- Date and place of birth
- Present nationality (and former nationality, if applicable)
- Present position held
- Full address of employing institution, including phone, fax and Email numbers
- Detailed evidence of expertise in relevant discipline (list of publications, etc.).

Details of Australian nominator

- Name of member organizing the visit, including full address, phone, fax and Email numbers
- Details of all other applications which have been made for financial assistance towards travel/accommodation costs. Total value of other contributions must be included.

Details of program

The program should normally last a minimum of 2 working weeks and cover at least 2 States or Territories.

Details should include:

- Date of visit
- Program being arranged, including institutions to be visited (with dates) and the purpose of each visit (lecture, seminar, workshop, research discussion, etc)
- Aims, rationale and likely benefits of visit
- Contribution to be made at Society's Scientific Meeting

Applications plus supporting documentation should be sent to the ASP President by the end of December in the year preceding the Conference. Applicants should check with the Conference Organisers for details of conference theme, symposia, workshops, etc. before submitting an application.



Postgraduate Travel

ASP Postgraduate Travel Awards

These awards are specifically designed to assist postgraduate students attend and present their research at international conferences. Applicants must be members of the ASP Inc. of at least 6 months standing and enrolled in a postgraduate degree at an Australian university. Four scholarships will be awarded each year and applications will be considered in two rounds with closing dates in June and December of the preceding year. Each scholarship will be up to the value of, but not exceeding, \$A2000. Applicants must nominate the conference, supply an abstract and justify their attendance at a recognised international conference preferably though not exclusively held outside of the

Australasian region. The award will only be made once proof is received of acceptance of the abstract by the conference organisers. If the student does not attend the conference the ASP funds must be returned to the Society. On return from the Conference a short report must be written to the Council detailing the student's experiences. Applicants should apply to the current ASP Secretary giving details of the conference, their research and supervisor's support plus an abbreviated c.v. and conference abstract as outlined on the accompanying application form. The application must not number more than 6 pages including the c.v. and abstract. Applications must be received by the next due dates of June 30th or December 31st each year.

APPLICATION FOR AN AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR PARASITOLOGY INC STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD

Name:
Address:
.....
Phone: Fax:
Email:

University:
Enrolled Degree:
Supervisor's Certification

I hereby affirm that the above-named person is a bona fide postgraduate student under my supervision.

Signed: Date:

Conference Details

Conference Title:
.....
Venue:
.....
Dates of the Conference:
Conference Address:
.....
.....

Title of Abstract (*Please attach a copy of the abstract*):

Author(s)
Oral or Poster session.

Awards will only be paid on receipt of proof that the abstract has been accepted.

Attach statement justifying attendance, budget (include all other support), brief curriculum vitae
[application not to exceed 6 pages]



ASP EXPERT DATABASE

The expert database is an initiative of the ASP Council and has been in existence for over 2 years. The aim of the database is to encapsulate all of the parasitological expertise available in Australia on one CD Rom.

This database can be utilised to quickly find appropriate people to comment on current issues or as a source of information for members looking for expertise in certain areas.

To ensure the privacy of these records is protected, they are not placed on the web site and information is only distributed to bona fide requests after permission is sought.

If you have not registered on this database, please complete the following and email to the current database custodian, Lois Small, at lois.small@nt.gov.au.

Title	Last name	First name	
Position			
Institution and Address			
City	State	Post code	Country
Phone number	Fax number	Mobile phone	
Email address			
Speciality area			
Parasite group			
Host group			



NEWS FROM FASTS

SCIENCE LIKE 'A GENTLY PRICKED BALLOON'

12 January 2004

Science in Australia is still afloat, but only just.

Scientists today compared it to a pricked balloon, slowly losing height and being easily outstripped by the efforts of other countries.

While funding initiatives in Australia over the last few years have been welcome, they have not been enough to retain our position in the international race to forge a modern economy.

Professor Snow Barlow, President of the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS), said that other countries were racing past Australia by increasing their funding for science and research.

"Only a substantial injection of new funds can solve the problem," he said. "The Government has an ideal opportunity when it announces plans for a successor to Backing Australia's Ability." He said that Australia gets top marks for the ingenuity of its researchers, but ingenuity cannot match the new investment other nations are pouring into the field.

"There seems to be a national failure in Australia to realise the urgency of the situation," he said. "It's as though we have taken an extended holiday from reality."

Professor Barlow pointed to plans of other countries to lift their research ability, with Europe, Japan, the USA and Canada all determined to make signifi-

cant investment in their research and education base.

"The European community has set a target for investment in research to reach 3 per cent of GDP by 2010. We are currently investing about half that amount, and ultimately this is going to tell," he said. "You can do things on the cheap for only so long."

He said the increase of permanent departures from Australia of young and talented people was symptomatic of the lack of investment in science and research.

"Permanent departures from Australia have increased by 146 per cent since the early nineties," he said.

"Not all these people are scientists, but scientists will be well-represented in the highly qualified young professionals fleeing overseas to find better pay, better facilities, more modern equipment and greater career opportunities."

Professor Graeme Hugo's report on brain drain, released on December 18, showed that one in twenty three Australians lived overseas, nearly twice the rate of Americans living overseas.

"In the most part these are highly qualified young professionals, exactly the sort of people Australia needs to retain.

FASTS TEN TOP ISSUES FOR 2004

1. BRING ON "BACKING AUSTRALIA'S ABILITY II"

BAA was a first step to invest in Australian science. It's time to take the second step and increase our national investment



to match the OECD average.

2. RETAIN OUR BRIGHT YOUNG RESEARCH SCIENTISTS

Recent science graduates have plenty of employment opportunities, but postdoctoral researchers have run into a career bottleneck. The best ideas will flourish if BAA II creates attractive career opportunities in research and industry.

3. PhD SCIENCE GRADUATES TO INVIGORATE INDUSTRY

BAA II should provide matching Government funds to employ new PhD graduates in industry for 2 years, to bring fresh scientific ideas for new methods and new products, and to forge science-based industry career paths.

4. ENCOURAGE INDUSTRY TO BE MORE INVENTIVE

Give increased tax breaks on a sliding scale to reward companies prepared to increase their investment in research, because enterprising and inventive companies grow and provide more jobs.

5. ATTRACT VENTURE CAPITAL INTO NEW INDUSTRIES

Venture capital is in short supply. Make it more attractive to invest in new ideas and new industries that have long term payoffs by lowering capital gains tax for long term investments.

6. NOW WE HAVE THE MAP, AUSTRALIA NEEDS A COMPASS

The National Mapping exercise has shown us where we are. We should create a plan for up to 10 years into the future that sets goals and national directions, including national action plans on limiting climate change and on sustainable energy strategies.

7. HECS BREAKS FOR SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS TEACHERS

Science and maths teachers are in short supply in Australia, but they pay higher HECS fees than other teachers and thus take home less pay. Bring in HECS breaks for science graduates when they take on teacher employment.

8. COLLABORATION, NOT COMPETING SILOS

Destructive competition between separate research organizations for the funding dollar limits research outcomes. Provide more collaborative funding incentives to build on the different strengths of universities and Government funded research agencies.

9. QUALITY SCIENCE GRADUATES

Quality science and technology graduates are vital to Australia's economic and environmental future. We need measures to ensure that the new Higher Education Funding arrangements help reverse the current decline in higher education science enrolments.

10. WE ARE NOW 20 MILLION AND GROWING

Australia is a fragile continent with an expanding population. We need to develop a scientifically based population strategy that takes into account limits to growth determined by, for example, water resources and soil salinity.

Dates for Diaries:

May 7 2004. Call for nominations for membership of OGTR committees (see <http://www.ogtr.gov.au/committee/nominations.htm>)

August 10/11 2004 Science Meets Parliament, Canberra



FASTS has requested assistance from societies for its lobbying and media campaigns in the lead up to the budget and federal election.

One strategy FASTS will be pursuing is to counter the fairly narrow policy focus on developing and commercialising IP by demonstrating the much broader benefits of investing in science including;

- * public benefits,
- * savings on community and/or government outlays;
- * benefits derived from non-patented changes in processes, organisation or better understanding of nature.

FASTS is looking for concrete success stories that will have meaning to people. They are hoping to gather a wide range of case studies for use in opinion pieces, press releases, radio interviews and lobbying politicians.

Although we all know economic, social and environmental benefits and flow ons from

investment in science, mathematics and technology (and the costs of under investment) figure in the billions that is too abstract for building strong community and media interest and support. We are more likely to get media coverage, particularly in regional centres, for direct, concrete benefits. A new process that creates 10 new jobs in Ballarat, or reduces water usage in the Atherton tablelands has more impact than billion dollar rhetoric.

An excellent example of the sort of material FASTS is seeking can be found in the Max Whitton's opinion piece on the funnelled web where he discusses Dr Jim Des-Marchellier's work on wheat storage (http://www.the-funnelled-web.com/Old_Op-Eds/op-ed22_10_03.htm).

If any ASP member can provide a real-life success story from their work, please contact Bradley Smith, the new Executive Director of FASTS. Bradley's e-mail is fasts@anu.edu.au or he can be contacted on (0408) 511 261 if anyone wants further information or advice.



An adult blackfly (*Simulium damnosum*) taking a bloodmeal on human skin
Source: TDR Credit line: WHO/TDR/STAMMERS



PARASITE CULTURE 2

Ian Barger sent in this item. Ian writes: "Have tracked down "The Kings" by the Australian poet Alec Derwent Hope in his "Poems", Hamish Hamilton, London. 1960. The poem itself was written in 1956. As well as being parasitologically accurate, it provides some pretty savage social commentary that is probably even more relevant today than when it was written!"

The Kings

The lion in deserts royally stalks his prey;
Gaunt crags cast back the hunting eagle's scream.
The King of Parasites, delicate, white and blind,
Ruling his world of fable even as they,
Dreams out his greedy and imperious dream
Immortal in the bellies of mankind.

In a rich bath of pre-digested soup,
Warm in the pulsing bowel, safely shut
From the bright ambient horror of sun and air,
His slender segments ripening loop by loop,
Broods the voluptuous monarch of the gut,
The Tapeworm, the prodigious solitaire.

Alone among the royal beasts of prey
He takes no partner, no imperial mate
Seeks his embrace and bears his clamorous brood;
Within himself, in soft and passionate play,
Two sexes in their vigour celebrate
The raptures of helminthine solitude.

From the barbed crown that hooks him to his host,
The limbless ribbon, fecund, flat and wet,
Sways as the stream's delicious juices move;
And, as the ripe joints rupture and are lost,
Quivers in the prolonged, delicious jet
And spasm of unremitting acts of love.

And Nature no less prodigal in birth
In savage profusion spreads his royal sway:
Herds are his nurseries till the mouths of men,

At public feasts, or the domestic hearth,
Or by the hands of children at their play,
Transmit his line to human flesh again.

The former times, as emblems of an age,
Graved the gier-eagle's pride, the lion's great heart,
Leviathan sporting in the perilous sea;
Pictured on History's or the Muse's page,
All knew the King, the Hero set apart
To stand up stiff against calamity,

Breed courage amid a broken nation's groans,
Cherish the will in men about to die,
To chasten with just rule a barbarous tribe
And guard, at last, the earth that kept his bones
And still the Muse, who does not flatter or lie,
Finds for our age a symbol to describe

The secret life of Technocratic man,
Abject desire, base fear that shape his law,
His idols of the cave, the mart, the sty –
No lion at bay for a beleaguered clan,
No eagle with the serpent in his claw,
No dragon soter with his searing eye,

But the great, greedy, parasitic worm,
Sucking the life of nations from within,
Blind and degenerate, snug in excrement.
"Behold your dream!" she says, "View here the form
And mirror of Time, the Shape you trusted in
While your world crumbled and my heavens were rent".



ASP Conference 2005

ASP 2005 will be held as part of:



From Science to Solutions

20th International Conference of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology

**Christchurch,
New Zealand
16-20th October, 2005.**

For more information:

<http://www.waavp2005.org.nz>



WAAVP2005, 16-20 October, 2005, Christchurch, New Zealand Update

Planning and details for our next WAAVP conference to be held from **October 16-20, 2005** in Christchurch, New Zealand, are well advanced. We have six major sponsors who have already agreed to support this conference: Fort Dodge Animal Health, Merial, Bayer Healthcare AG, Novartis Animal Health Inc., Intervet International BV and a New Zealand Consortium including Ancare NZ Ltd.

Nick Sangster, chairman of the Scientific Committee has already confirmed most of the plenary speakers for the conference.

These are listed as follows with draft titles for your information:

Roger Morris, New Zealand on “Veterinary parasitology in the context of modern epidemiology”;

Wayne Hein, New Zealand on “Vaccines in veterinary parasitology”;

Melba Reantaso, United States of America on “Disease management in aquaculture”;

Georg von Samson-Himmelstjerna, Germany on “Will technology provide solutions for drug resistance in veterinary helminths”;

Milton McAllister, United States of America on “A decade of discovery in veterinary protozoology”;

Brian Cooke, Australia on “Cell adhesion in medical and veterinary Haemoprotozoa”;

Rosemary Peter, South Africa on “Tick/fly control, solutions for the future”.

The organising secretariat for the conference is Vetlearn, New Zealand (email: vetlearn@massey.ac.nz).

Members are urged to visit the website for the conference at <http://www.waavp2005.org.nz> where details on the venue, host city and the first announcement are already available.

Bookmark this site as further information will be provided and regularly updated. The second notification and call for abstracts and registrations will be mailed at the end of the year. Above all make plans to come to New Zealand for the conference and enjoy the scientific interaction with your colleagues.

Bill Pomroy, Chairman of the WAAVP2005 Organising Committee



MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

Special Low Subscription Rate for Members of the Australian Society for Parasitology

Elsevier Science publishes the *International Journal for Parasitology* and handles all subscriptions, including membership subscriptions, on behalf of the society. Elsevier Science is pleased to announce a special exclusive society rate for members of the ASP and urges all members to take full advantage of their membership and subscribe today! The 2003 member-rate is listed below.

It is important to note that any subscription is intended for personal use and is not to be used as, or replace, an institutional subscription.

To obtain such a member subscription, please complete and return the form and declaration below.

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THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR PARASITOLOGY INC

Secretariat: ASP Inc c/- RGSQ.

237 Milton Road, Milton QLD 4064

Fax: (07) 3367 1011 Email: rgsq@gil.com.au

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Tax Invoice ABN: 65 979 686 445

Surname: **Given name(s):** **Title:**

Email:

Postal address:

.....

.....

.....

Telephone: Fax:.....

Signature: Date:

*Proposed by (Name): (Signature):

*Seconded by (Name): (Signature):

*The Society's Constitution requires that the Applicant be known personally to at least one of the sponsors for membership. Both the proposer and seconder must be members of the Society.

This application must be accompanied by payment of one year's subscription in Australian dollars:

\$80 for full members (Inc GST), \$20 for student members (Inc GST)†, \$500 (Inc GST) for sustaining members.

† Applicants for **student membership** must have the following statement signed.

Registered Higher Degree: Institution:.....

Signature of Head of Department:

I enclose a cheque or money order for A\$ payable to the "Australian Society for Parasitology Inc."
OR please debit my (tick one)

Visa Bankcard Mastercard

Card number: — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —

Expiry date: — — / — —

Cardholder name:

Cardholder signature: _____

Applications for membership are considered by a Committee of the ASP and applicants duly notified.

Amount received

Office use only

Date elected:

Elected by:



COUNCIL OF THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR PARASITOLOGY INC.

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Australian Hydatid Control & Epidemiology Program

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Tel: (02) 6271 6331 Fax: (02) 6272 3124

Email: djenkins@effect.net.au

Vice-President: Tom CRIBB

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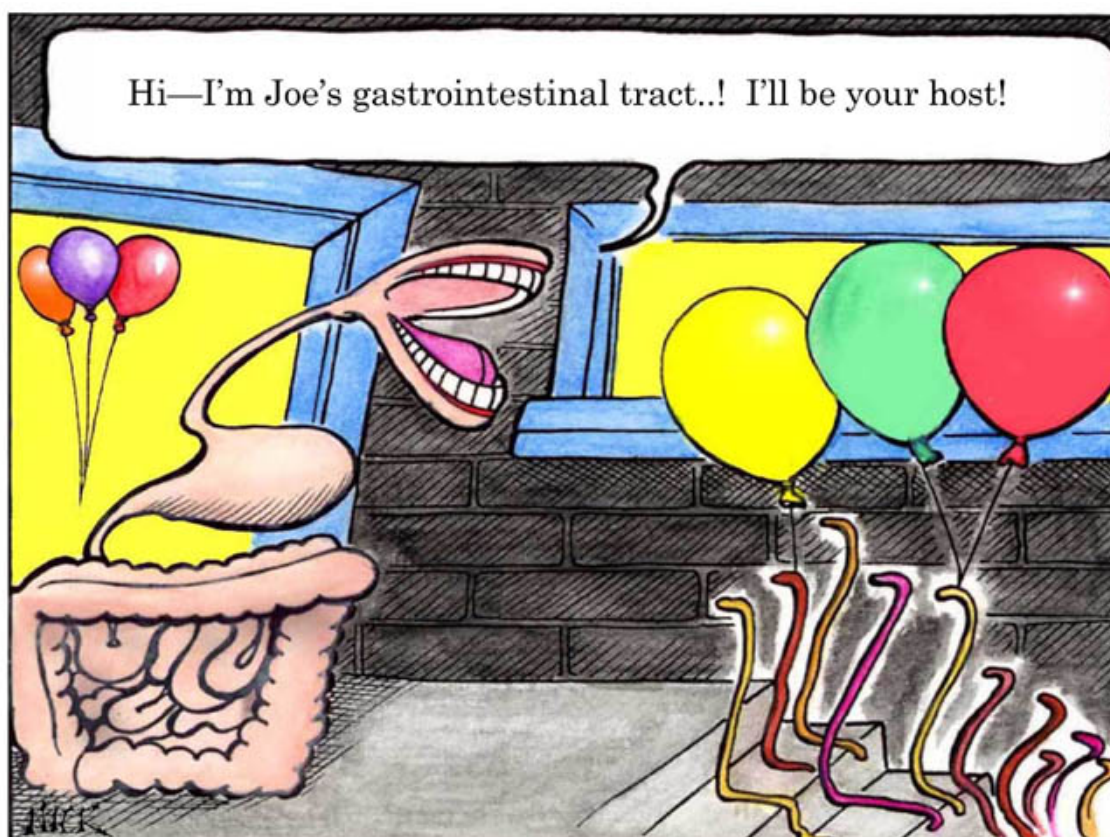
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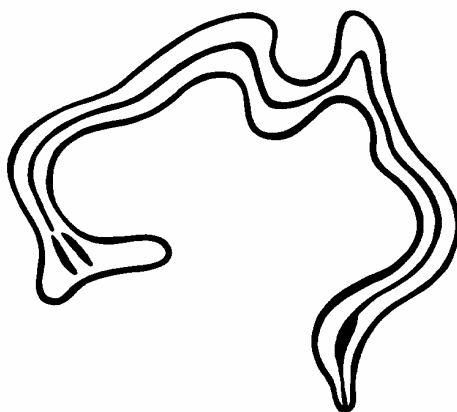
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Great tapeworm parties.

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